MIDDLEBURY COLLEGE
MIDDLEBURY, VERMONT

January 3, 1969

Dear Parents:

Enclosed you will find the first-term grades of your son or daughter. With full knowledge that your initial reaction may be shock, we hope to help you to look at these grades with perspective.

Middlebury is a most selective college. Each student here has stood out scholastically and in other abilities in secondary school. Many have had to expend relatively little energy to attain this status in the past.

The Freshman year in college is always a new experience. There is apt to be a letdown when the acknowledged leader of a group finds himself only part of a new group made up of people who also were acknowledged leaders. The Freshmen are experiencing new degrees of freedom and new pressures on their private living patterns, on top of a considerably intensified academic experience. These factors may cause a break in stride for the individual student.

It is important for parents and students to understand that college grades must be regarded with a perspective different from that of secondary school. Each student's unusual ability was testified to by his admission to Middlebury. The measures of ability have changed, not the ability itself.

We hope you will discuss these grades with your son or daughter with the realization that seemingly lower performance is as discouraging for the student as it is for you. The laws of probability almost guarantee that this will be the first real academic disappointment for many students.

We will be happy to discuss these grades or any other problems with you or the students.

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth B. Kelly

Elizabeth B. Kelly
Dean of Women

Bruce B. Peterson

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Dean of Men